

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROBEWATER.

VICTOR ROBEWATER, EDITOR.

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Daily average, 36,444. GEORGE B. TSCHUCK, Treasurer.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 2d day of January, 1908. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

WHEN OUT OF TOWN: Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

Democratic harmony in this vicinity is surpassed only by republican harmony.

Matrimony is always a valid excuse for the resignation of a public school teacher.

The political banquet is fast crowding the old-fashioned political barbecue off the map.

Mayor "Jim" declares he does not care to shine in society—unless he picks the society.

A California architect says he sees 100-story buildings ahead. He should take something for it at once.

"Is there any cure for lockjaw?" asks a Chicago physician. Well, a political career will cure it if anything will.

The record falls to show that any saloons have closed their doors on account of the increase in water wagon patronage.

Mighty few cashiers' checks still floating around in Omaha. That's more than a lot of other cities can say for themselves.

Tom Lawson's plan for a third political party has received the hearty support of all but about 85,000,000 American people.

A scientist has discovered that the grip germ has barbs. Every grip victim knows that, and knows also that the barbs are red hot.

For some inscrutable reason the auto scorches do not appear to be so eager to test the speed limit in winter as they are in summer.

Under its new consolidation Pittsburg has fifty-eight wards and 113 councilmen. No enemy of the city could wish it a harder fate.

"Foraker has Senator Dick for an ally in his anti-administration fight," says the New York World. And, besides that, he has other handicaps.

Omaha would like to entertain the coming republican state convention. It is quite able, too, to take care of the coming democratic state convention.

The Jacksonian feast is pronounced a grand success, but so was the Dahman Democracy dinner. Honors are easy and competition as brisk as ever.

Shanghai has passed an ordinance allowing motor cars to run through its streets at the rate of thirty miles an hour. Shanghai has struck a Yankee gait.

"Keep your eye on Governor Johnson of Minnesota," says the Baltimore News. There is nothing in Governor Johnson's official or private life to warrant the insinuation that he needs such close watching as all that.

A cow reared at the Wisconsin Agricultural college has a record for producing the raw material for 1,200 pounds of butter in one year. This would seem to be an argument in favor of sending cows to college.

Governor Cummins and former Governor Shaw, after a serious conference, have agreed to let the republicans of Iowa, by their representatives in convention, select the delegates to the republican national convention.

A FAR-REACHING DECISION.

The decision of the United States supreme court in the employer's liability cases is one of the most important and far-reaching handed down by that tribunal in recent years. The ultimatum of the court is that in this legislation congress exceeded the authority vested in it by the constitution.

On one point the court seems to have been much divided, namely, whether the act would hold as to employees actually engaged in interstate commerce, even though it could not be made to apply to other employees engaged in work entirely disconnected from interstate commerce. Five of the nine judges, however, have agreed that the act must be regarded as a whole and that it is void in its entirety because its main purpose goes outside of the constitutional powers of congress. Only one judge out of the nine has gone on record squarely in favor of upholding the law in its fullest scope and of recognizing authority in congress to legislate generally for the regulation of interstate commerce carriers in all their varied relations to the public and to their employees.

The position taken by the supreme court adverse to the employer's liability act tends to check all proposals for congressional legislation under the interstate commerce clause designed to supersede state control of railroad operations within state boundaries. What gave these cases unusual significance was the possibilities of extending federal control over all aspects of transportation that would follow judicial recognition of the authority claimed by congress.

Many railroad officers and some high standing attorneys professed to see an opportunity to read into the interstate commerce clause of the constitution sufficient power to give the federal government exclusive jurisdiction over all common carriers. From this hope for a measure of relief from divergent legislation of forty-six states through refuge in congress they are now cut off.

It should, of course, be remembered that the point at issue in the employer's liability cases does not necessarily go beyond the relations of the railroads to their employees, and it is possible, notwithstanding this decision, that authority may be found in this and other sections of the constitution to widen greatly the scope of congressional authority over interstate transportation companies, as compared with what has already been done by congress in this direction. But it is more likely that for the present, at least, the railroad program will have to be treated co-ordinately by both federal and state law-makers and uniformity of regulations secured, so far as is desired, by co-operation rather than by substitution of congressional for state legislation.

RECIPROCITY WITH FRANCE.

Standpatners who have been voicing their indignation over the action of the president and the State department in negotiating a new trade treaty with Germany will find source of a new grievance in the announcement just made of the conclusion of a practical commercial agreement between France and the United States. The matter has been pending for some months and the completion of the proposed agreement is accepted in business circles as a guaranty of largely increased trade with France.

By the terms of the compact, the United States is to make a reduction of 20 per cent of the duty on French champagnes and certain other wine products and France to apply its minimum tariff rate to Porto Rico coffee and to remove some objectionable restrictions heretofore imposed against American meats. The French government is also to place its minimum tariff on American cottonseed oil and its products. It is estimated that as a result of these concessions the export of American products to France will be increased by many millions annually, enlarging the field that has already been opened by the terms of recent tariff agreement with Germany.

GOLD OUTPUT AND FEDERAL FINANCE.

According to the preliminary report of the director of the mint, there was a decline of about \$5,000,000 in the amount of gold production in the United States for the year 1907, as compared with the yield in 1906. The final official figures may show that this falling off is not quite so large, but it will come as a surprise to the country that there was any reduction. This is the first decline in gold production in the country for many years. The director states that the reduced output is due partly to labor troubles and partly to a lack of smelter facilities. The production for the year is just a little less than \$90,000,000, Colorado and Alaska leading, although both showed a slight decline from the 1906 record.

These figures have a special interest just now in their relation to national finances. Ordinarily, federal expenses exceed receipts in the first three months of each fiscal year, while a surplus usually marks operations of each month for the rest of the year. The present fiscal year, ending next June, has shown deficits for both quarters thus far, the total deficit being about \$10,000,000 on January 1, due principally to the use of some \$50,000,000 of current revenues to meet expenses at Panama. Secretary Cortel-

YOU WANTED TO PAY THE EXPENSES OF CANAL CONSTRUCTION OUT OF CURRENT REVENUES, BUT YOU WERE COMPELLED TO ABANDON IT BY MONEY MARKET CONDITIONS, WHICH MADE IT NECESSARY TO ISSUE CANAL BONDS AS A BASIS FOR ADDITIONAL BANK NOTE CIRCULATION.

The financial stringency also caused a decrease in imports, thus reducing the revenues below normal. In spite of these untoward circumstances, government experts predict that the end of the fiscal year will find a handsome balance in the treasury. While the American gold yield will show a slight decline for the year, the gain in South Africa was more than enough to offset the losses in this country, so that the world's gold production for 1907 will make a new record.

WISCONSIN DEMOCRATS.

While our democratic friends like to talk of their party as the party of the people and to profess undying faith in the voice of the rank and file, the democrats up in Wisconsin are giving an exhibition which shows that this sort of talk is for effect only. Wisconsin has a primary law which, unlike the Nebraska law, provides for the election by direct vote of all national convention delegates. The primary in Wisconsin is to take place some time in April for all parties alike and the procedure is prescribed in detail by the statute. But the democrats in the Badger state do not propose to follow the primary law at all, but to continue to choose their delegates to the national convention in the old way, with the primary as merely a ratification meeting.

TAFT AND FORAKER.

Ohio's senior Senator Led Astray by "Pool Friends." Chicago Tribune. The Ohio friends of Secretary Taft court a popular verdict as to the merits of their candidate. The senator's friends do not. They do not relish the decision of the State Central committee to give the republican voters an opportunity to declare in the election of delegates to the state convention which of the Ohio candidates for the presidential nomination they prefer. Instead of direct primaries the friends of the senator would rather have the old fashioned kind. They are dear to the practical politicians, because their adroit or violent methods of running the primaries are more potent in electing delegates than the wishes of the voters.

OMAHA YELLOW JOURNALISM.

Wood River Sunbeam. There is a newspaper in Omaha that upholds Journalism of the most yellow stripe. A sample of their work was shown when they sent a special correspondent to the farm to get an account of the disappearance of the Olsen child. The special correspondent failed to get in touch with the facts in the case, and in order that his paper might create a sensation, made up a story of his own wherein the tale of finding the child's tongue and other falsehoods came forth from the depraved mind of the writer. And the paper published it. They have since found that it was an untruth from start to finish, yet that same man, formerly a bucket-shop bunco man at Shelton, later a prize fight promoter on No-Man's land near Omaha, and now a so-called newspaperman, is still in their employ. They ought to have fired him. As long as they keep such men on their staff the paper will be a disgrace to decent Journalism in Nebraska.

WEAKENING OF SKILLED LABOR.

Detroit Free Press. An analysis of the report issued by the Department of Commerce and Labor, made by experts, supports the statement that the labor of this country is being unmistakably impaired because more capital was required per wage earner, a larger superintending force was required for the same number of workers, and still the net value of the product shows a decrease. These statements are not made in a tone of criticism. It is quite possible that the first word to the effect that they describe a real condition will come from the wage-earner himself, although he may ascribe various causes for it. It seems to be human nature to grow slothful and arrogant in the face of plenty and only do his best work when adversity is pending.

GOOD SIGN OF THE TIMES.

Philadelphia Record. Substantial evidence that financial matters are assuming normal conditions is afforded by the Bank of England's reduction of the discount rate of from 7 to 6 per cent. Seven was fixed when our affairs were most threatening and Europe had troubles of its own. Six is a high rate, but it was inevitable that the reduction should be gradual; seven had not been fixed before since 1873, and the important thing about the present change is not its amount, but its direction.

TREATMENT FOR DELUSION.

Buffalo Express. Mr. Bryan told a large audience that it had heard a speaker "who on two different occasions cherished the delusion that he was going to be a real live president, and who feels the disease coming on again. Mr. Bryan should not worry. The American people should shake twice that they know how to treat the delusion.

WHO PAYS THE PRINTER?

Washington Herald. Chancellor Day's book being presented to congressmen free of charge. Perhaps the chancellor is seeking revenge upon some unknown member who has been sending him the Congressional Record.

BETTER HIKE FOR FULL TIMBER.

Pittsburg Dispatch. Perhaps after a few more experiences the corporation magnates with a disposition to discredit regulatory proceedings will let the American people shake twice that they know how to treat the delusion.

DRAPPS ON NATURAL RESOURCES.

Yearly Output of Metals and Minerals in the United States. The value of the yearly output of metals and minerals in the United States has been multiplied by ten during the last generation. The record stands: 1880, \$24,928,384; 1900, \$1,977,083,882; 1905, \$4,928,384,100; 1907, \$1,028,571,120; 1908, \$66,476,380,107; \$2,100,000,000.

During this time our gold output has about doubled; our silver output somewhat more than doubled; our coal, measured in tons, has been multiplied by fifteen; our petroleum output, in gallons, is nearly thirty times what it was in 1870; our production of pig iron increased from 1,700,000 tons in 1870 to about 26,000,000 tons at the present time, and our copper output has grown from the paltry 12,000 tons of 1870 to about 350,000 tons last year. Owing to the closing down of mines during the year the output of copper was about one-half less than it was in the year 1906.

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Minor Scenes and Incidents Sketched on the Spot. Washingtonians have a larger share and a greater variety of the grip this season than ever before. Present or previous condition afford no barrier to its reach. All citizens, to the number of 20,000, are afflicted. Even the newspaper corps, usually immune to common scourges, has been hit in relays, above and below the belt. One victim at the Washington Herald relieves his mind and momentarily soothes his bodily ills in this strenuous fashion: "Ugh! The grip is 'a monster of so hideous mien' that it would take the poppy-inspired pen of a de Quincey to do it justice; and even that pen would probably have to be reinforced with the melancholy of Poe and the horror of Dante. First, you are hot, and then you are cold; then you are cold inside and hot outside, and then the temperatures get all mixed up until you know not what you feel, your head aches, you have neuralgia of the face and a pain in the back. It hurts you when you breathe, and it hurts you worse when you don't; you feel bad when you lie in bed, and like a crazy man when you get up. When people ask you what they can do for you, and weakly you reply, 'Nothing,' kindly if the grip had left you sufficient courage you would instead beg them to get an ax and put you out of your misery."

The largest concrete bridge in the world has just received the finishing touches at Washington. The Connecticut avenue bridge, as it is known, spans the deep gorge of Rock Creek, not fifteen minutes' walk from the center of the city.

The structure is remarkable for several reasons. In the first place it is built entirely of concrete without being reinforced with steel.

It is 1,421 feet long, with a 52 foot roadway on a walk on either side. The total length is 136 feet above the ground. There are several 150 foot arches and two narrow ones of 82 feet.

Work was begun about seven years ago on the foundations, though the plans had already taken about two years to complete. The work halted owing to the failure of congress to appropriate enough money to complete it.

But about three years ago the necessary bills went through and a really beautiful bridge is now the result. The cost was a million dollars.

In the days when Senator Washington told stories, West of Missouri was the king of the senate cloak room, and Don Cameron was his lay figure. They rig jokes on new men in the cloak room, and the last thing they do is to construct serious laws there. The senators who spend most of their time scenting their own cloaks and those of their fellows with tobacco smoke are not often consulted on especially serious matters; they constitute the "army" of the flag, and follow their leaders. When a real bill is to be prepared, says Harper's Weekly, it will not be thrashed out amid the chaff of the cloak room, but in some committee room. "When George F. Edmunds and Thurman wanted to draft a bill on an amendment to the constitution, they went to the cloak room and there the business would be done. The senators or visitors who talk about legislation in the cloak room are not often consulted on especially serious matters; they constitute the "army" of the flag, and follow their leaders. When a real bill is to be prepared, says Harper's Weekly, it will not be thrashed out amid the chaff of the cloak room, but in some committee room.

Midshipmen and marriage are interesting to the Navy department at present considerably. In the last three years more than one midshipman has been dismissed from the service for marrying before he has been graduated from Annapolis. Also there has been increasing number of requests to the Navy department from passing midshipmen asking permission to marry. The department has been so far lenient with Cupid and has granted most of these requests. A quiet investigation of the effect of such marriages has, however, been carried on, and the result of this has satisfied the Navy department that a passed midshipman has no business to marry unless he "marries money" or has it himself. Henceforth, it is believed, the department will refuse the requests of most of the passed midshipmen unless they can show that they have ample means to support themselves, their wives and additions to their families.

The commanding officer of the marine corps, in Washington, announces that it is enlisted to its full strength. And thereby hangs the whole tale of the difficulties attending the recruiting officer. If the hard times should continue a few months longer there is no doubt that the Fairbanks would have full ranks, although it is 20,000 men, or one-third short of its authorized strength now, the infantry, field artillery and coast artillery being just about at half strength. It seems certain that the bulk of the private soldier must be increased if the army is to be maintained under normal conditions but such an increase would not guarantee full ranks.

The navy, with opportunities for enlisted men to reach a pay of \$30 a month, with board and clothes, has its enlistment difficulties. The chief trouble seems to be that the average man seems to have a taste for military service in times of peace. When times are hard he hustles for the marine corps first, because it is a comparatively easy service with world-wide travel thrown in. If times continue hard he fills up the army.

Senator "Bob" Taylor of Tennessee, raconteur, violin virtuoso, and hereditary statesman, is often the center of a group of politicians and good fellows in the lobby of the Ebbitt House these recess nights. And he rarely gets away without telling one or more of the stories which have helped to make him famous.

"When I was governor of Tennessee," he said the other evening, during one of these conversations, as Eugene Field would say, "I received a letter from an inmate of the state penitentiary of Missouri. 'My dear cousin,' it ran, 'It ain't fittin' fer me to see your letter, no doubt, but I'm pen an' I wish't you'd get me out of you kin.' It was signed 'Bob Taylor,' which looked as if the writer ought to be mighty close kin."

"I sent it to the governor of Missouri with the following indorsement: 'I wish, if you can conscientiously do so, that you would turn this fellow loose, and if ever any of your relatives get in the Tennessee penitentiary I'll return the favor.' 'I heard later,' concluded the Senator, "that Bob had gained his freedom, but whether through my efforts I have never learned. And he hasn't thanked me yet."

Vice President Fairbanks' desk in the senate chamber is always as neatly arranged as the top bureau drawer of a fastidious young woman. A dozen times a day, while he listens to the oratorical efforts of various senators, or the monotonous reading of bills, he abstractedly yet methodically arranges that desk. Each pad of memoranda slips has its appointed place and each pen and blotter is laid in geometrical relation to the other things on the desk. His gavel always lies at his left hand, in proper position for immediate use when the degree of "audible distraction" in the chamber becomes too large.

PERSONAL NOTES.

It is announced that the Prince de Sagan will sue the Count de Castellane for damages of 20 cents. Why not thirty?

A Connecticut man has lived for some months on skim milk and bread, but withholds explanation as to why he lives that way or any other.

A college president declared that men principals of schools are "stissies." As he was addressing a gathering of them and wasn't thrown out, there may be something in the theory.

J. E. Tawney, father of Congressman Tawney, chairman of the committee on appropriations, has just died at Cedar Bluffs, Neb. Mr. Tawney owned the farm upon which the battle of Gettysburg was fought.

James Bryce, British ambassador to the United States, will be the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the New York Bar association on January 24 and 25. Mr. Bryce will speak on "The Methods and Conditions of Legislation." Joseph H. Choate will deliver his annual address as president of the association.

Judge Phillips of the federal court of appeals, according to a dispatch from St. Louis, says that "it is a matter of common notoriety that a very large percentage of the frightful disasters on railroads is attributable to inattention of those in charge of the operation of trains to explicit rules and orders of the managing officers."

A Fairbanks club is being formed in Chicago, and all persons, to be eligible to membership, must be six feet and over. Charles Warren Fairbanks is six feet four and a half inches in height. The organizers of the unique club feel that his candidacy would therefore be popular with tall men. The Fairbanks all hat and the Fairbanks frock coat will be worn as insignia of rank.

Winter had been reproached for holding his hand. "The fact is," he explained, "I enjoyed so greatly my sojourn among you last May and June that I'm inclined to regard it as a precedent."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Mr. Stople—I wonder if Miss Terseep meant anything by it? Mr. Soandoo—By what? Mr. Stople—Well, when I was calling on her the other night, I said that I could sit forever and listen to the music of her voice. And after that she let me do all the talking.—Houston Post.

Miss Knox—She's being treated by one of those complexion specialists. I wouldn't let anybody make that experiment with my face. Mr. Cutting—Why not? He certainly couldn't make it any worse.—Philadelphia Catholic Standard.

"Republicans," said the disappointed statesman, "are ungrateful." "Well," answered Farmer Cornsoul, "it's so hard to tell a patriot from an office-seeker that I don't like the republic for gettin' kind o' suspicious."—Washington Star.

"Where's your nephew?" "He's out in one of the western mining camps." "How's he doing?" "He writes that he's putting lots of money in circulation. He runs a roulette wheel."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"I notice where the marriageable girls in Hungary, backed by their fathers, are

Orchard & Wilhelm 414-16-18 South 16th St. OUR JANUARY FURNITURE SALE

Is attracting unusual attention, and it should, for we have gathered together a multitude of bargains of new, this season's patterns, selected with the utmost care at a time when the manufacturer was winding up his season's business. This together with the recent financial flurry placed these goods in our possession at about half manufacturers' regular prices. Come here for your furniture and profit by the greatly reduced prices.

A Hint of the Bargains to Be Found Here:

- \$14.00 Weathered Oak Desk, January sale.....\$9.75
\$10.00 Golden Oak Desk, January Sale.....\$6.50
\$22.00 Mahogany Desk, January sale.....\$15.50
\$11.00 Mahogany Music Cabinet, January sale.....\$8.25
\$14.00 Bookcase, with desk drawer, January sale.....\$9.00
\$19.50 Weathered Oak Arm Chair, Spanish leather seat and back.....\$6.75
\$13.50 Weathered Oak Arm Rocker, loose Spanish leather cushion seat, January sale.....\$8.75
\$22.00 Weathered Oak Sleepy Hollow Rocker, Spanish leather, January sale.....\$14.50
\$30.00 Leather Turkish Rocker, January sale.....\$22.75
\$27.00 Solid Mahogany Rocker, January sale.....\$19.75
\$24.00 Mahogany Finished Divan, January sale.....\$16.00
\$72.00 Mahogany Davenport, January sale.....\$49.50
\$110.00 Three-piece Parlor Suite, January sale.....\$81.50
\$60.00 Mahogany Dresser, January sale.....\$42.00
\$52.00 Mahogany Chiffonier, January sale.....\$38.00
\$29.00 Golden Oak Dresser, January sale.....\$29.50
\$40.00 Golden Oak Chiffonier, January sale.....\$27.50
\$33.00 Bird's-eye Maple Dresser, January sale.....\$22.00

LEAP YEAR.

Baltimore American. When a maiden all kisses and lovelines wishes, Pleads passion in tones soft and low, And begs a young fellow in voice sweet and mellow With her to the altar to go, When she begs he'll not tarry to promise to marry, But say "yes," without much ado, So clearly she loves him, so noble fate proves him— Why, what is a poor man to do? If 'tis hard to resist her, hold her but a sister, When convention her tongue's appeal dies, And she has no language to tell of her wish, Save the pleading that lies in her eyes, How can she help heeding her eloquent pleading, When soft voice joins soft glances to woo? When she begs him to take her, his cherished wife make her, And when she comes, "Won't you do? You love me, now don't you? What is a poor fellow to do?"

LAUGHING LINES.

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LOWNEY'S Chocolate Bonbons Always Delicious—Pure—Wholesome—Digestible One Box will make a Happy Home! Every Sealed Package guaranteed Fresh and Full Weight Fancy Boxes and Baskets in exclusive designs—For Gifts THE WALTER M. LOWNEY CO. Makers of Cocoa and Chocolates BOSTON, MASS.

Browning, King & Co CLOTHING, FURNISHINGS and HATS

For the Boys

- Specials for this week: Knee Pants, ages 3 to 16, that sold up to \$1.50, now.....55c
Boys' Knickerbockers, ages 3 to 16, worth up to \$2.00, now.....\$1.00
Juvenile Sweaters in sizes 20 to 26, for the little fellows, worth up to \$1.75, now \$1
Fancy "Tams," worth up to \$4.00, now.....\$1.00
Girls' Skating "Tams," worth up to 75c, now...35c

15th and Douglas Streets B & K 15th and Douglas Streets R. S. WILCOX, Mgr.